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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A silencer for a passage comprising:
a soft acoustic section soft in acoustics where a sound pressure at an inner wall surface of the passage becomes approximately zero; and
a non-soft acoustic section where the sound pressure at the inner wall surface of the passage does not become zero,
wherein said soft acoustic section and said non-soft acoustic section are arranged alternately on the inner wall surface of the passage along a longitudinal direction of the passage over an approximately half or greater of a wavelength of a sound wave to be silenced.

2. (currently amended) A silencer for a passage comprising:
a partition wall for dividing the passage such that an opening width of the passage becomes a half or smaller of a wavelength of a sound wave to be silenced;
a soft acoustic section soft in acoustics where a sound pressure at a wall surface of the partition wall becomes approximately zero; and
a non-soft acoustic section where the sound pressure at the wall surface does not become zero,
wherein said soft acoustic section and said non-soft acoustic section are arranged alternately on ~~both side wall surfaces~~ of the partition wall along a longitudinal direction of

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the passage over an approximately half or greater of the wavelength of the sound wave to be silenced.

3. (currently amended) The silencer for passage according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein said soft acoustic section is formed of an a first acoustic pipe having ~~a length from an a first~~ open end portion disposed on ~~[[a]] the inner wall surface to~~ and a first closed end portion opposite to the first open end portion, said first acoustic pipe having a first length from the first end portion to the first closed portion equal to approximately 1/4 of the wavelength of the sound wave to be silenced.

4. (currently amended) The silencer for a passage according to claim 3, wherein said first acoustic pipe has the first open end portion ~~thereof~~ covered with a film.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The silencer for passage according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein said non-soft acoustic section is formed of a sound absorbing member reducing the sound pressure.

7. (currently amended) A silencer for a passage having a rectangular cross section, comprising:

first silencing ~~means~~ units mounted on one of two pairs of inner wall surfaces of the passage facing oppositely with each other; and

second silencing ~~means~~ units having silencing property different from that of the first silencing ~~means~~ units and mounted on the other of the two pairs of the inner wall surfaces,

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wherein each of said first silencing ~~means~~ units is configured such that a soft acoustic section soft in acoustics where a sound pressure at the inner wall surfaces of the passage becomes approximately zero and a non-soft acoustic section where the sound pressure at the inner wall surfaces of the passage does not become zero are alternately arranged along a longitudinal direction of the passage over an approximately half or greater of a wavelength of a sound wave to be silenced.

8. (currently amended) A silencer for a passage having a rectangular cross section, comprising:

a partition wall for dividing the passage such that an opening width thereof becomes a half or smaller of a wavelength of a sound wave to be silenced so as to form a plurality of miniaturized passages each having a rectangular cross section inside the passage;

first silencing ~~means~~ units mounted on one of two pairs of inner wall surfaces of at least one of the miniaturized passages facing oppositely with each other; and

second silencing ~~means~~ units having silencing property different from that of the first silencing ~~means~~ units and mounted on the other of the two pairs of the inner wall surfaces,

wherein each of said first silencing ~~means~~ units is configured such that a soft acoustic section soft in acoustics where a sound pressure at the inner wall surfaces becomes approximately zero and a non-soft acoustic section where the sound pressure at the inner wall surfaces does not becomes zero are alternately arranged along a longitudinal direction of the passage over an approximately half or greater of the wavelength of the sound wave to be silenced.

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9. (currently amended) The silencer for a passage according to claim 7 ~~or claim 8~~, wherein said soft acoustic section is formed of ~~[[an]]~~ a first acoustic pipe having ~~a length from an a~~ first open end portion disposed on at least one of the inner wall surfaces ~~to and~~ a first closed end portion opposite to the first open end portion, said first acoustic pipe having a first length from the first open end portion to the first closed end portion equal to approximately $1/4$ of the wavelength of the sound wave to be silenced.

10. (currently amended) The silencer for a passage according to claim 9, wherein said first acoustic pipe has the first open end portion covered with a film.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The silencer for a passage according to ~~any one of claims 7 to 11~~ claim 7, wherein each of said second silencing ~~means~~ units includes a sound absorbing section formed on the inner wall surfaces for reducing the sound pressure of the sound wave to be silenced.

13. (new) The silencer for a passage according to claim 2, wherein said soft acoustic section is formed of a first acoustic pipe having a first open end portion disposed on the wall surface and a first closed end portion opposite to the first open end portion, said first acoustic pipe having a first length from the first open end portion to the first closed end portion equal to approximately $1/4$ of the wavelength of the sound wave to be silenced.

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14. (new) The silencer for a passage according to claim 13, wherein said first acoustic pipe has the first open end portion covered with a film.

15. (new) The silencer for a passage according to claim 1, wherein said non-soft acoustic section is formed of a second acoustic pipe having a second closed end portion disposed on the inner wall surface and a second open end portion opposite to the second closed end portion, said second acoustic pipe having a second length from the second open end portion to the second closed end portion equal to approximately $1/4$ of the wavelength of the sound wave to be silenced.

16. (new) The silencer for a passage according to claim 2, wherein said non-soft acoustic section is formed of a second acoustic pipe having a second closed end portion disposed on the wall surface and a second open end portion opposite to the second closed end portion, said second acoustic pipe having a second length from the second open end portion to the second closed end portion equal to approximately $1/4$ of the wavelength of the sound wave to be silenced.

17. (new) The silencer for a passage according to claim 2, wherein said non-soft acoustic section is formed of a sound absorbing member reducing the sound pressure.

18. (new) The silencer for a passage according to claim 8, wherein said soft acoustic section is formed of a first acoustic pipe having a first open end portion disposed on at least one of the inner wall surfaces and a first closed end portion opposite to the first open end portion, said first acoustic pipe having a

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first length from the first open end portion to the first closed end portion equal to approximately $1/4$ of the wavelength of the sound wave to be silenced.

19. (new) The silencer for a passage according to claim 18, wherein said first acoustic pipe has the first open end portion covered with a film.

20. (new) The silencer for a passage according to claim 7, wherein said non-soft acoustic section is formed of a second acoustic pipe having a second closed end portion disposed on at least one of the inner wall surfaces and a second open end portion opposite to the second closed end portion, said second acoustic pipe having a second length from the second open end portion to the second closed end portion equal to approximately $1/4$ of the wavelength of the sound wave to be silenced.

21. (new) The silencer for a passage according to claim 8, wherein said non-soft acoustic section is formed of a second acoustic pipe having a second closed end portion disposed on at least one of the inner wall surfaces and a second open end portion opposite to the second closed end portion, said second acoustic pipe having a second length from the second open end portion to the second closed end portion equal to approximately $1/4$ of the wavelength of the sound wave to be silenced.

22. (new) The silencer for a passage according to claim 8, wherein each of said second silencing units includes a sound absorbing section formed on the inner wall surfaces for reducing the sound pressure of the sound wave to be silenced.